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The Hand of God



THE HAND OF GOD
In the Museum of the Luxembourg
FIRST VIEW

T H E
H A N D *of* G O D

By M A X S H O O P

*An Appreciation of
Rodin's Study
in Marble*

N E W Y O R K
G E O R G E H . D O R A N C O M P A N Y

The Hand of God

THE Master Mind had scarce conceived
Its mighty thought divine,
Than straight his potent touch enwrapt
That thought in marble line.

THE HAND OF GOD

THE form he hewed has symbolized
A truth that God might utter,
To guide our wavering souls on earth
In dispute o'er mind and matter.

THE HAND OF GOD

OUT of an unshaped, infinite Mass,
(So the thought of the Master ran),
That forms Existence, whate'er it be,
Stretches a wondrous hand,

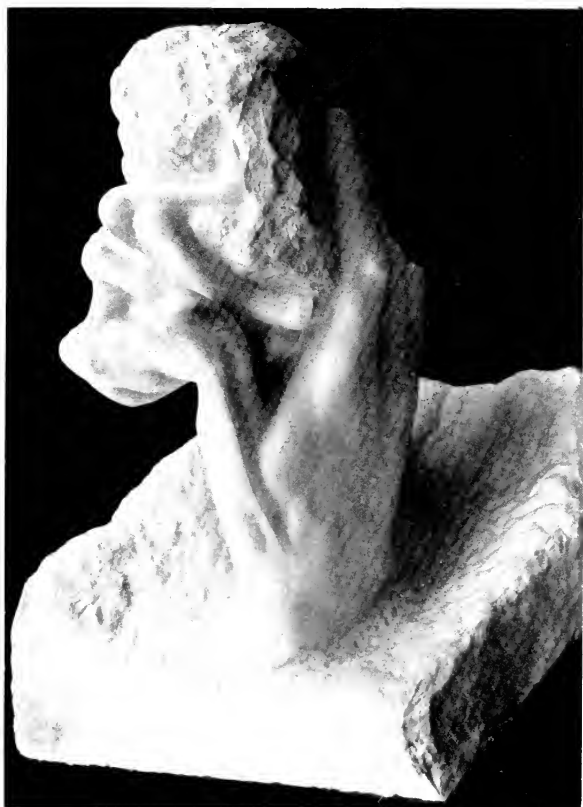
THE HAND OF GOD

WHOSE lines are blurred in infinite
strength
To obey the Will behind,
Which myriad years have named alway,
God, — a Power, — yet blind.

THE HAND OF GOD

BUT the Hand of God is a hand of
Love,—

The hand of an Infinite Whole
That grasps a clod of its own self
To make the human soul.



THE HAND OF GOD
In the Museum of the Luxembourg
SECOND VIEW

THE HAND OF GOD

UPON that hand appears no strain,
Nor sign of human toil, —
Its task is done with infinite ease,
All human thought to foil.

THE HAND OF GOD

WITH mystic pressure unseen by Man,
This Hand of God out-welds
A vintage of Life of finite vein,
As th' ethereal self-mass yields

THE HAND OF GOD

TO a visible form of God on Earth, —
A man and woman, — known
To us but by external sign:
The inner is his, alone.

THE HAND OF GOD

YEA, a visible form of God on Earth,—
A man and woman, born
To live as units separate,—
A counterpart, asunder torn.



THE HAND OF GOD
In the Metropolitan Museum of Art
NEW YORK

THE HAND OF GOD

A SORRY work our ignorance has
wrought
Out of this plan, Above!—
For the Unit-two from the Mass are
formed
With arms entwined in love:

THE HAND OF GOD

SO closely knit that thus they seem
To ooze together, out the Mass,
Lip to lip, — and heart to heart;
Sympathy divine, — their clasp.

THE HAND OF GOD

THUS, in love, from the Mass conceived,
By the pressure of Its own Hand,
Came a Human Pair, with will set free,
As God's ideal of Man.

THE HAND OF GOD

HE has let them fall from His upraised
Hand,
To be tossed in the world below, —
Piteously unable to ever see
Whence they came, or whither go!

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